

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 TRSE-00 /024 W

----- 033861

R 100116Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SDCSTATE WASHDC 7374

INFO CINCPACREPPHIL

CINCPACREPGUAM

UNCLAS MANILA 12693

FOR IATF

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN, RP

SUBJECT: IVORY TUSK AFFAIR: CLAIM OF NGUYEN TRUC

REF: (A) CINCPACREPPHIL 030224Z SEP 75

(B) CINCPACREPGUAM 301144Z AUG 75

(C) CINCPACREPGUAM 280208Z JUL 75

FOLLOWING FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. NGUYEN TRUC, PRESENTLY LOCATED J&G CAMP GUAM AND IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS FORMER MASTER VN MERCHANT SHIP ANH TUAN, CLAIMED PAIR IVORIES TAKEN FROM HIM BY US COLONEL DURING SUBIC IN-PROCESSING MAY 7 (REF C).

2. NGUYEN TRUC REPEATED CLAIM ONE MONTH LATER. CINCPACREP GUAM ASKED FOR INVESTIGATION AS IT BECOMING CAUSE CELEBRE AMONG REPATRIATES (REF B).

3. INVESTIGATION BY USAID AND SUBIC BASE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN GRANDE ISLAND REFUGEE PROCESSING REVEALED FOLLOWING (REF A):

A. ON 6 MAY 75, TWO IVORY TUSKS MOUNTED IN A CARVED BASE WERE RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHALL CUSTODIAN  
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FROM DINH TUAT NIEN, SISTER OF HO VAN TU, OWNER AND

CAPTAIN OF THE M/S ANH TUAN. SHE ARRIVED SUBIC ABOARD ANH TUAN. TUSKS WERE SEIZED UNDER CHAIN OF CUSTODY DURING CUSTOMS PROCESSING AS THEIR ENTRY INTO THE US WAS THOUGH TO BE PROHIBITED UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING THE CARVING TO A PHILIPPINE BUYER WAS PROPOSED BY TU; HOWEVER, IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASCERTAINED, AFTER THE OWNER HAD DEPARTED SUBIC, THAT THE CARVING COULD ENTER THE US. THE CARVING WAS FORWARDED BY US MAIL ON 9 JUNE 75 UNDER REGISTRY NO. 774775 TO DINH TUAN NIEN, 23036 VOUGHT ST., RIVERSIDE, CALIF., THE ADDRESS OF HER BROTHER-IN-LAW AND SPONSOR, ROBERT E. NEWKIRK, USAF (RET.).

B. ONLY OTHER IVORY SEIZED WAS ON A SUBSEQUENT DATE FROM HO SI MUO AND IT WAS LATER SENT TO HIM BY US REGISTERED MAIL ALSO.

4. NO RECORD OF ANY OTHER IVORIES TAKEN NOR OF ANY COLONEL/CAPTAIN INVOLVED IN PROCESSING LINE AT GRANDE ISLAND NOR ANY RECORD OF CLAIM MADE AT SUBIC BY NGUYEN TRUC; HAS BEEN FOUND.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** CGEN, RP  
**To:** STATE  
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